

AMAR
CHITRA
KATHA

BUMPER ISSUE No. 30 Rs. 20

JATAKA TALES

THE RIGHTFUL KING AND OTHER STORIES



JACKAL STORIES
THE HIDDEN TREASURE
TRUE FRIENDS

JATAKA TALES

The Rightful King and other stories

The Jataka Tales are a veritable treasure of Indian folklore, legend and fable. Each time these popular stories are told, they acquire a new colour and fresh dimension. Besides being entertaining, the Jataka tales give us invaluable information about ancient Indian civilization, culture and philosophy.

The Jataka tales recount the stories of the previous incarnations of the Bodhisattva before he became the Buddha, or the enlightened one. The Bodhisattva came in many forms – man, monkey, elephant, lion, deer etc. Whatever his mortal form, in each story, the Bodhisattva spread the message of justice and wisdom. The present collection includes a selection of these fascinating folktales.

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Published by H.G. Mirchandani for INDIA BOOK HOUSE PVT.LTD., Mahalaxmi Chambers, 22 Bhulabhai Desai Road, Bombay- 400 026, and Printed by him at Sakal Printers, Prabhadevi, Bombay- 400 025.

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JACKAL STORIES -----

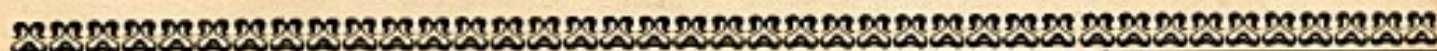
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HIDDEN TREASURE -----

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TRUE FRIENDS -----

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THE JACKAL AND THE RATS



ONE DAY, WHILE ROAMING IN THE FOREST IN SEARCH OF FOOD, A JACKAL SUDDENLY SPIED A TROOP OF RATS. THEIR KING WAS A HUGE BANDICOOT.



I COULD ATTACK THEM, BUT THEN I'D CATCH ONLY ONE AND THE REST WOULD RUN AWAY.

IF I'M CLEVER, HOWEVER, THESE RATS COULD PROVIDE ME WITH FOOD FOR MANY DAYS.



SO HE FOLLOWED THEM TO THEIR HOLE.



WHEN THE LAST OF THEM HAD GONE INTO THE HOLE, THE JACKAL STOOD OUTSIDE ON ONE LEG, HIS MOUTH OPEN AND HIS FACE TURNED TOWARDS THE SUN.



A LITTLE LATER, WHEN THE RATS CAME OUT AGAIN —

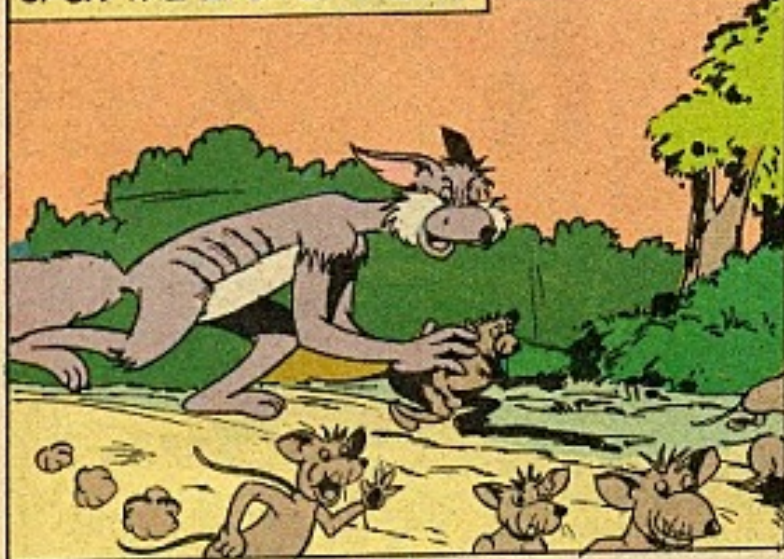




THEIR WORSHIP OVER, THE RATS TROOPED AWAY...



...WHILE THE JACKAL SWIFTLY SWOOPED UPON THE LAST OF THEM.



THIS WENT ON FOR MANY DAYS. THEN THE BANDICOOT NOTICED SOMETHING.



A LITTLE LATER—

LORD, THERE AREN'T AS MANY OF US AS THERE USED TO BE.

WHAT COULD THE REASON FOR THIS BE?



THE JACKAL HAS GROWN PLUMPER AND MY SUBJECTS FEWER! COULD THE JACKAL...? I'LL FIND OUT.



SO THAT EVENING AS THE RATS WERE
READY TO SET OUT —

TODAY
ALL OF YOU GO
AHEAD. I'LL
COME OUT
LAST.



IF MY GUESS
IS CORRECT,
HE'LL POUNCE
ON ME. I MUST
BE READY.



THE NEXT MOMENT THE JACKAL SPRANG AT
HIM...



... BUT MISSED.

SO THIS
IS YOUR
GAME! YOU
RASCAL!



THE BANDICOOT DUG HIS TEETH INTO
THE JACKAL'S THROAT AND KILLED HIM.



BACK CAME ALL THE OTHER RATS AND
THEY HAD A GRAND FEAST.



THE JACKAL AND THE LION



A HUNGRY JACKAL ONCE SUDDENLY CAME ACROSS A LION WHO WAS ON HIS WAY HOME.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE LION'S DEN—



YOU WILL GO TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN EACH DAY AND SEE IF THERE ARE ANY ANIMALS ROAMING IN THE VALLEY BELOW.



AND IF I SEE ONE, MY LORD?

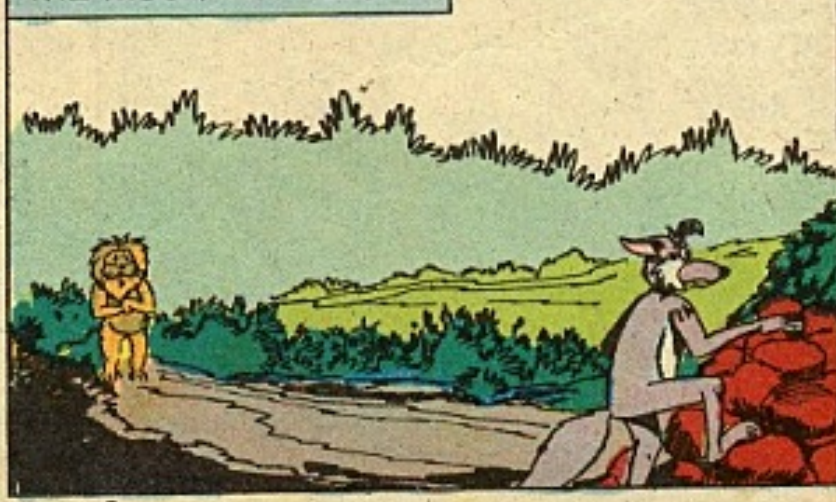
YOU WILL COME AND TELL ME ABOUT IT. THEN YOU WILL SAY: "SHINE FORTH IN ALL YOUR MIGHT, MY LORD."



THEN, AFTER I'VE KILLED THE ANIMAL AND EATEN MY FILL, YOU MAY TAKE WHAT'S LEFT.



SO THE NEXT DAY THE JACKAL WENT TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP.





HE SPED BACK TO THE LION...



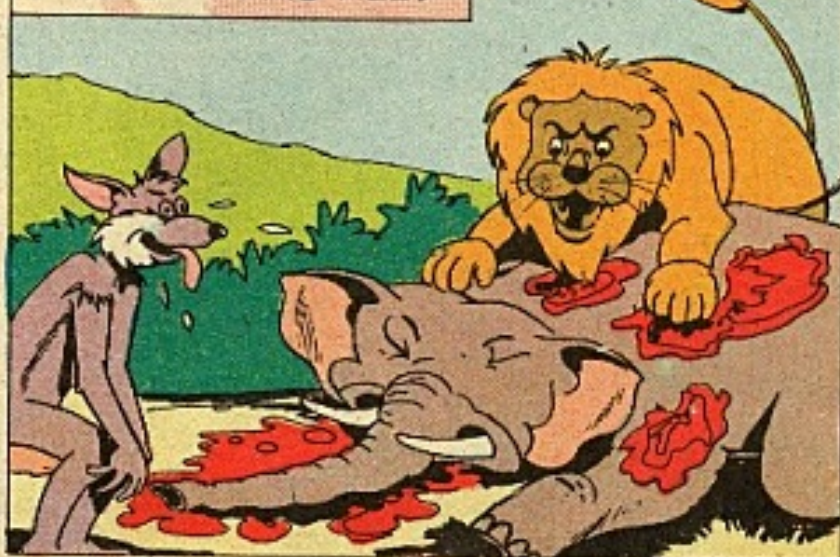
...AND FELL AT HIS FEET.



THE LION KILLED THE ELEPHANT...

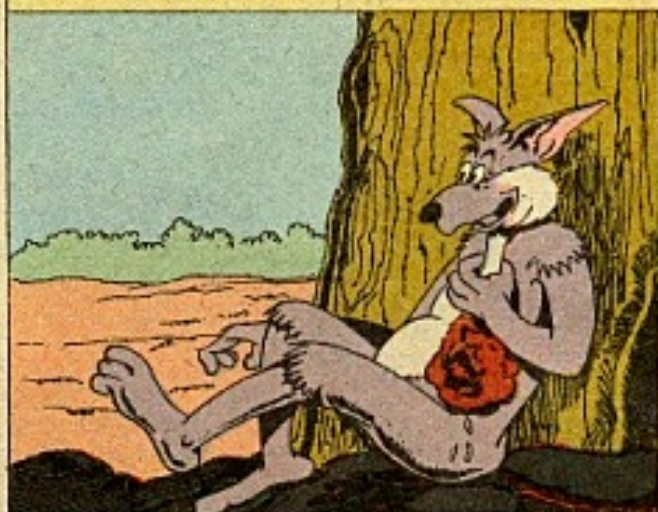


...AND ATE HIS FILL.



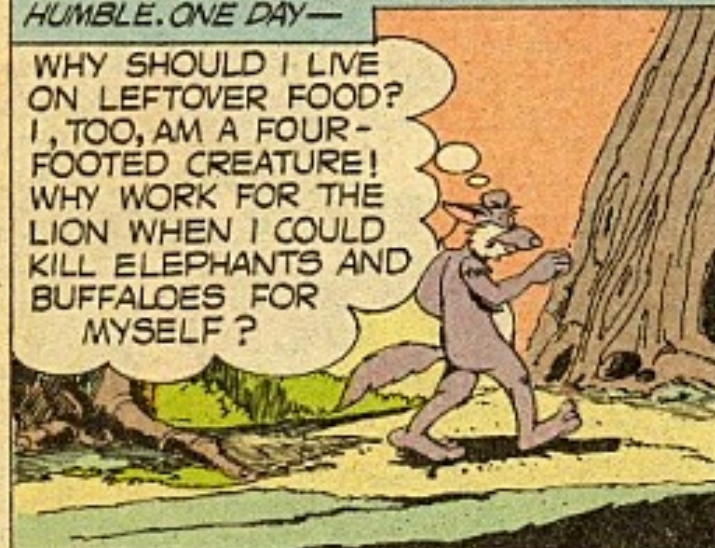


AS THE DAYS WENT BY, THE JACKAL GREW FATTER AND FATTER.



BUT, ALAS! HE GREW LESS AND LESS HUMBLE. ONE DAY—

WHY SHOULD I LIVE ON LEFTOVER FOOD? I, TOO, AM A FOUR-FOOTED CREATURE! WHY WORK FOR THE LION WHEN I COULD KILL ELEPHANTS AND BUFFALOES FOR MYSELF?



AFTER ALL, THE LION ONLY GETS HIS STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC PHRASE, "GO FORTH AND SHINE IN ALL YOUR MIGHT".



HE APPEALED TO THE LION.

MY LORD, I HAVE LIVED FOR TOO LONG ON WHAT YOU KILL. I WOULD LIKE TO EAT AN ELEPHANT I HAVE KILLED MYSELF.



THE LION WAS SILENT FOR A WHILE.

WHAT A FOOLISH IDEA! HE'LL BE KILLED HIMSELF!



O JACKAL, ONLY LIONS
CAN KILL ELEPHANTS.
GIVE UP THIS SILLY IDEA.
AND BE HAPPY TO
EAT WHAT I KILL.

PLEASE, MY LORD. DON'T
DENY ME THIS CHANCE. I'LL
WAIT HERE, WHILE YOU
GO TO THE MOUNTAIN-
TOP.



WHEN YOU SEE AN
ELEPHANT, COME TO ME
AND SAY, "SHINE FORTH
IN ALL YOUR MIGHT, JACKAL,"
AND I'M SURE TO
KILL IT.

AT LAST THE LION GAVE IN.

ALL RIGHT.
I'LL DO IT.



A LITTLE LATER, THE LION CAME BACK.

I HAVE JUST SPIED
AN ELEPHANT COMING
THIS WAY. SHINE FORTH
IN ALL YOUR MIGHT,
JACKAL.

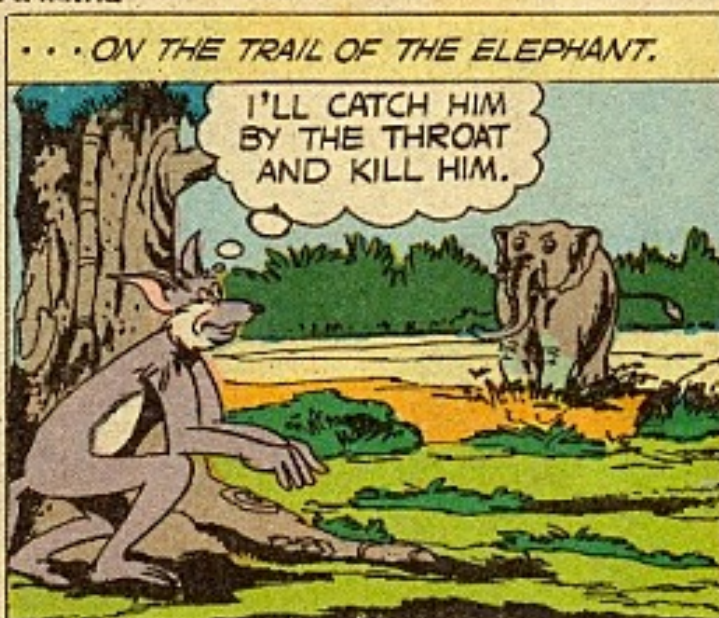


THE JACKAL
NIMBLY
BOUNDED
AWAY...

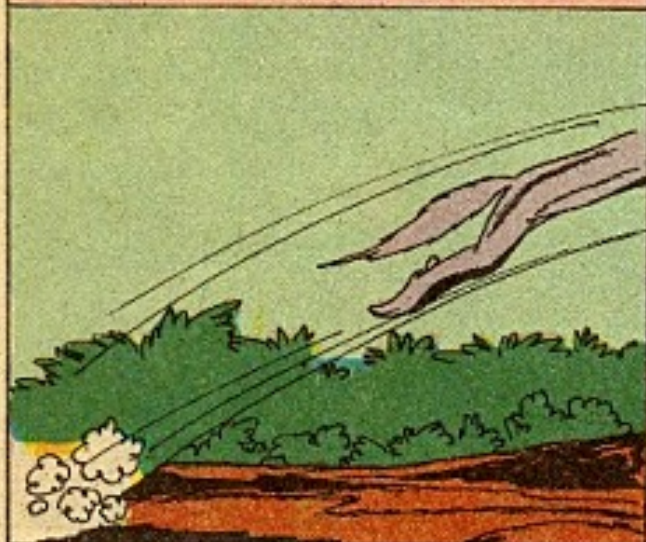


... ON THE TRAIL OF THE ELEPHANT.

I'LL CATCH HIM
BY THE THROAT
AND KILL HIM.



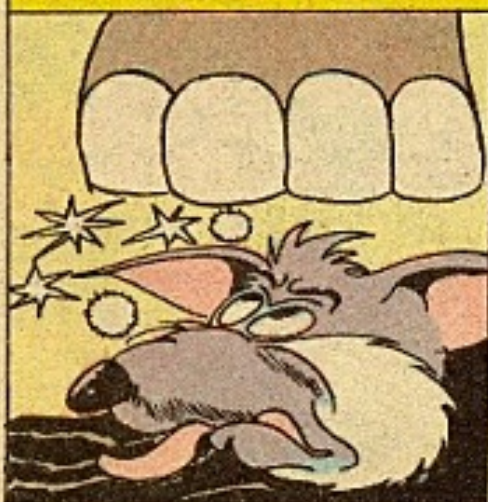
HE SPRANG AT THE ELEPHANT...



... BUT MISSED HIM.



THE PUZZLED ELEPHANT
JUST WALKED OVER HIM...



... AND THAT WAS THE END OF THE FOOLHARDY JACKAL.



THE CLEVER JACKAL



A GROUP OF ROGUES WERE ONCE HAVING A GRAND PARTY.

TOWARDS MIDNIGHT—

CAN I HAVE
SOME MORE
MEAT?

YOU CAN HAVE
MORE WINE IF
YOU LIKE, BUT
THERE'S NO
MEAT LEFT.



WHAT! NO MEAT!
BUT I MUST
HAVE SOME!



I'LL GO TO THE
CHARNEL-GROVE, KILL
A PROWLING JACKAL,
AND BRING YOU ITS
MEAT.



CLUB IN HAND, THE BRAGGART SWAGGERED OFF.



WHEN HE REACHED
THE GROVE —

I'LL PRETEND
I'M A CORPSE. THAT
WILL ATTRACT JACKALS
AND KEEP AWAY LIONS
AND TIGERS.



WHEN A JACKAL
COMES NEAR, I'LL
KILL HIM WITH
MY CLUB.



A LITTLE LATER, A PACK OF JACKALS CAME BY.

LOOK, THERE'S
A CORPSE.
COME ON!

WAIT! LET ME
MAKE SURE WE'RE
SAFE.

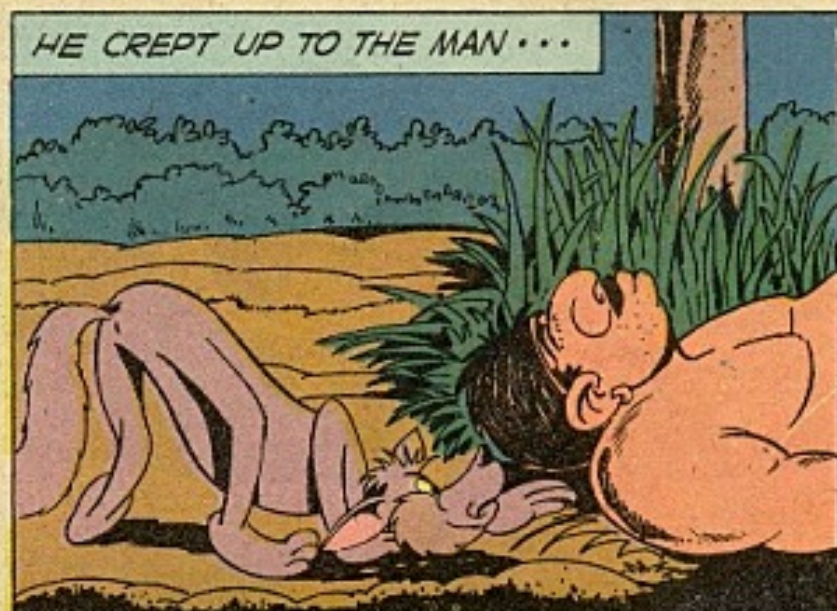


SNIFF!
SNIFF!



THE SMELL
OF A LIVING
MAN! JUST AS
I THOUGHT! HE IS
ONLY PRETENDING
TO BE DEAD.





THE NEXT MOMENT THE JACKAL LET GO OF THE CLUB WITH A JERK.



THE STARTLED ROGUE JUMPED TO HIS FEET, FLUNG HIS CLUB AT THE JACKAL...



... AND MISSED !



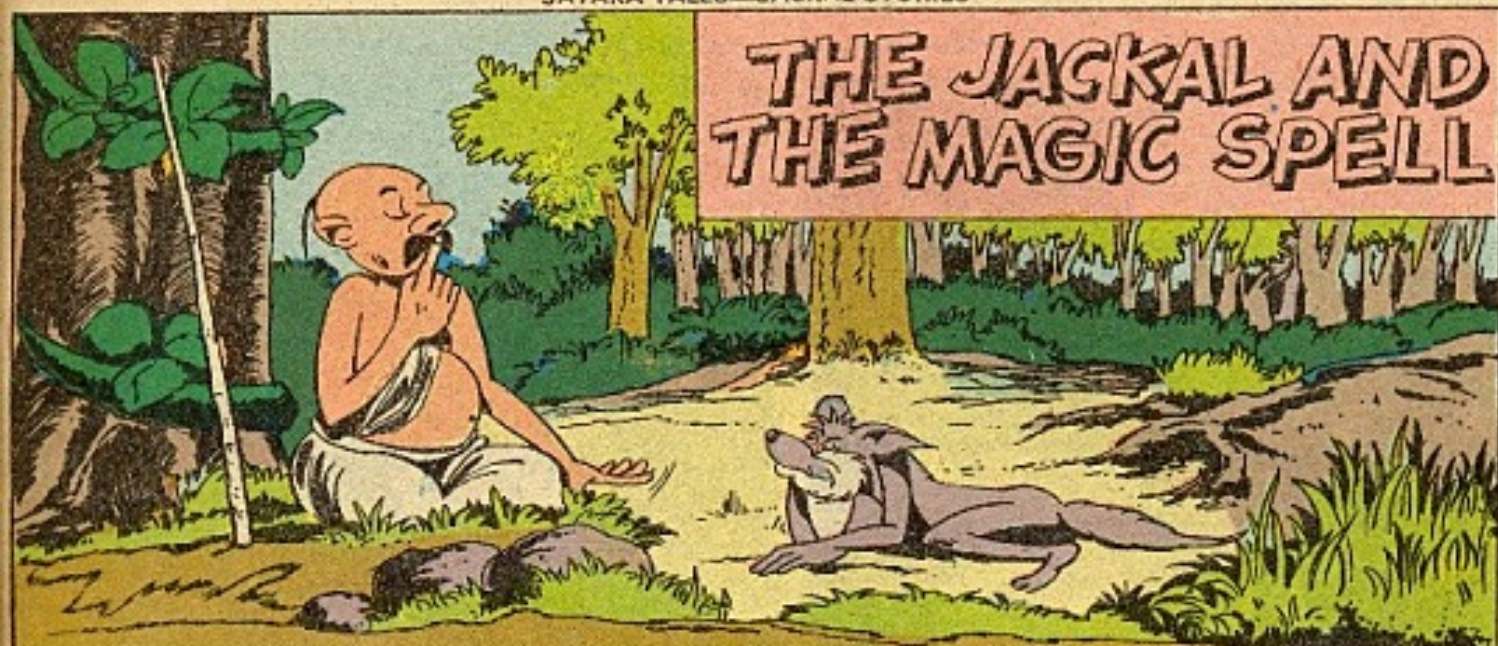
I DARE NOT
FACE MY FRIENDS
AFTER MY
VAIN BOAST.



I'D BETTER
GO HOME AND
SLEEP.



THE JACKAL AND THE MAGIC SPELL



IN A SECLUDED SPOT IN A FOREST, THE FAMILY PRIEST OF BRAHMADATTA, KING OF VARANASI, WAS ONCE REPEATING A SECRET SPELL.

A JACKAL LYING NEAR BY PRICKED UP HIS EARS.

IF I LISTEN CAREFULLY I, TOO, CAN MASTER THAT.



A LITTLE LATER THE BRAHMAN GOT UP.

THERE! I'VE MASTERED IT.



THE NEXT MOMENT, TO HIS SURPRISE, A JACKAL STOOD BEFORE HIM.

HO! BRAHMAN, YOU COULDN'T HAVE MASTERED THE SPELL BETTER THAN I.



AND OFF HE RAN. THE PRIEST RAN AFTER HIM.

I MUST CATCH HIM! HE'LL PLAY HAVOC WITH THAT SPELL.



BUT THE JACKAL ESCAPED DEEP INTO THE FOREST.

I'LL FIRST GET MARRIED AND THEN, USING THE SPELL, I'LL BRING ALL THE FOUR-FOOTED CREATURES OF THE FOREST UNDER MY SWAY.



HE SOON FOUND HIMSELF A SHE-JACKAL.

IF YOU BECOME MY WIFE YOU SHALL BE QUEEN OF ALL THE ANIMALS OF THE FOREST.

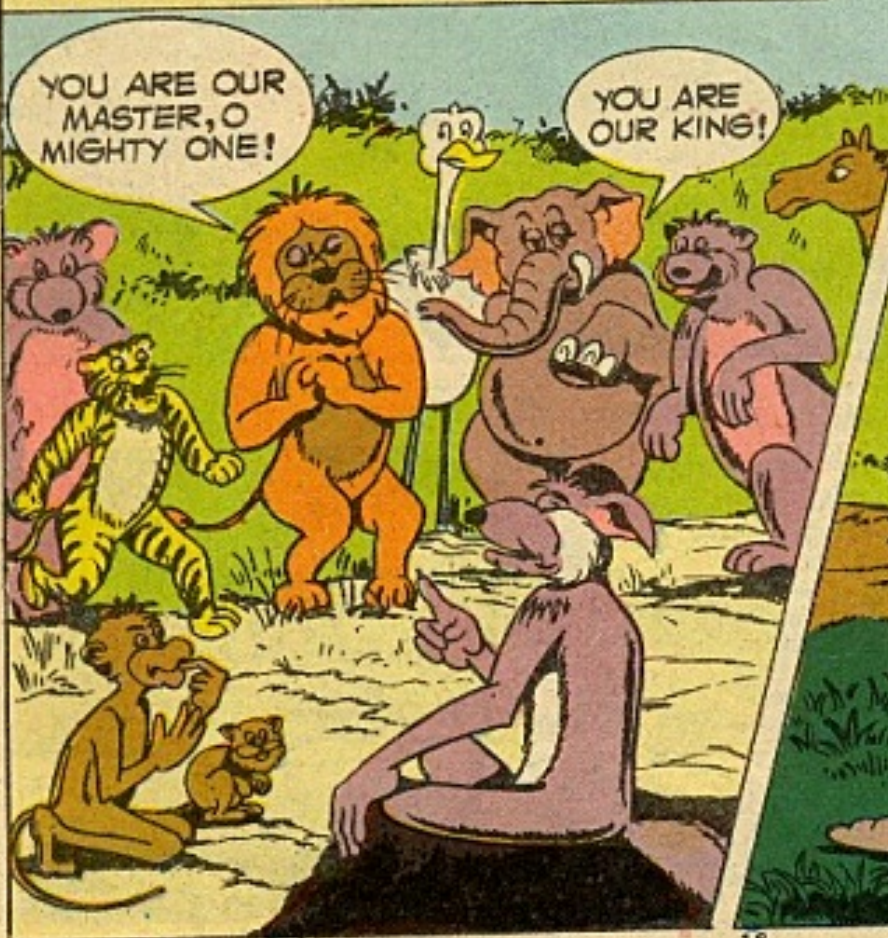
I'M WILLING.



LATER HE UTTERED THE SPELL AND ALL THE ANIMALS BEGAN TO FLOCK TOWARDS HIM.

YOU ARE OUR MASTER, O MIGHTY ONE!

YOU ARE OUR KING!



THEY SEATED THE JACKAL AND HIS WIFE ON A LION WHICH STOOD ON TWO ELEPHANTS.



THEY CONFERRED A TITLE ON THE JACKAL AND BOWED TO HIM.



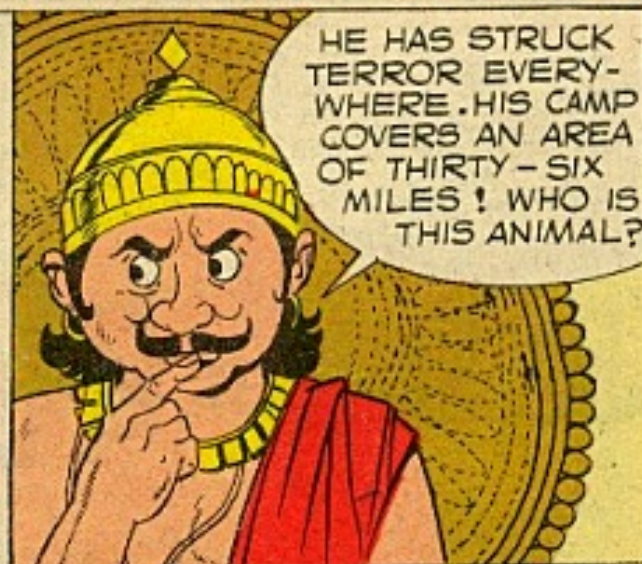
ALL THIS WENT TO THE JACKAL'S
HEAD.

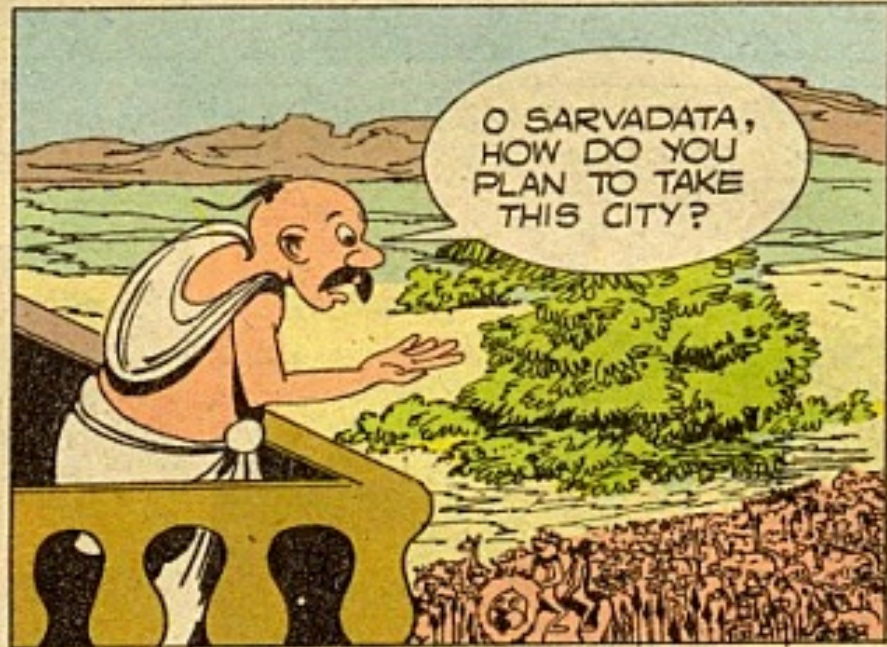
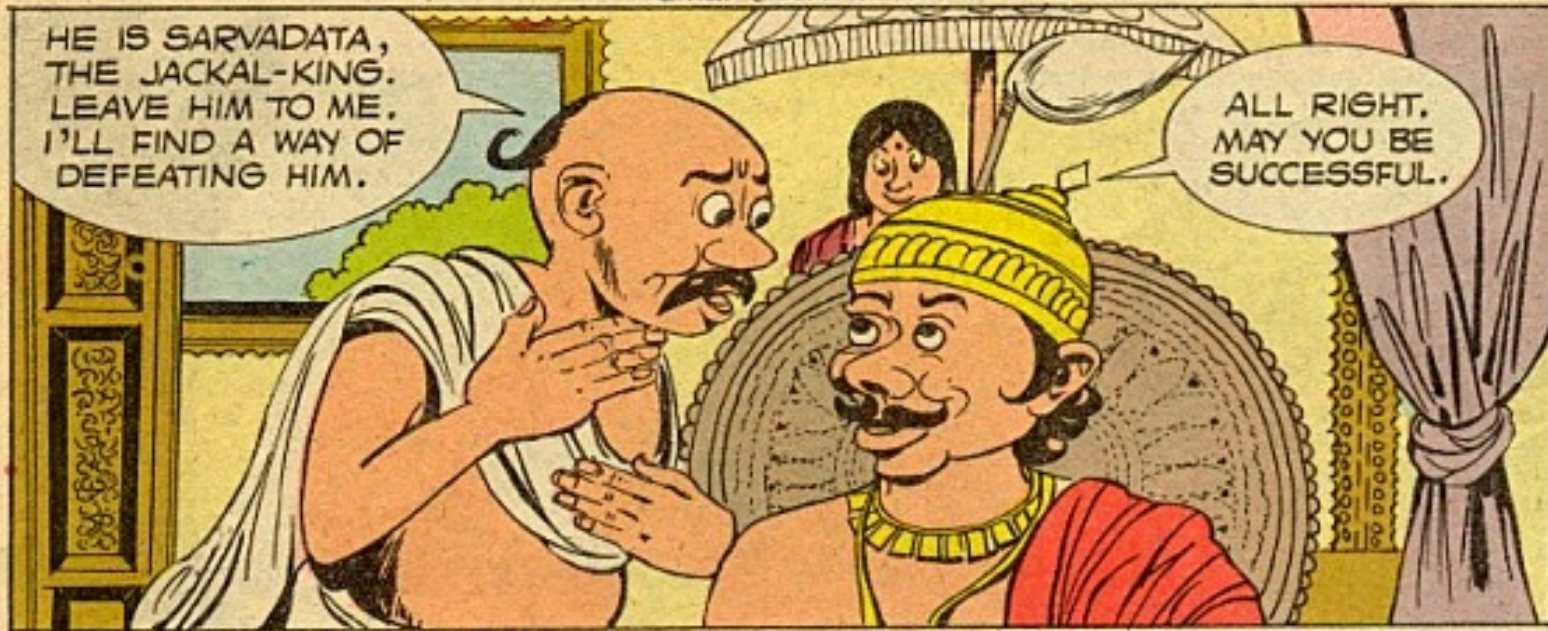


SO, WITH HIS GREAT FOLLOWING, HE
MARCHED TO VARANASI.



WHEN THE KING RECEIVED THE MESSAGE,
HIS FAMILY PRIEST WAS WITH HIM.





IMPOSSIBLE! THESE NOBLE CREATURES WILL NEVER OBEY A COMMON JACKAL.



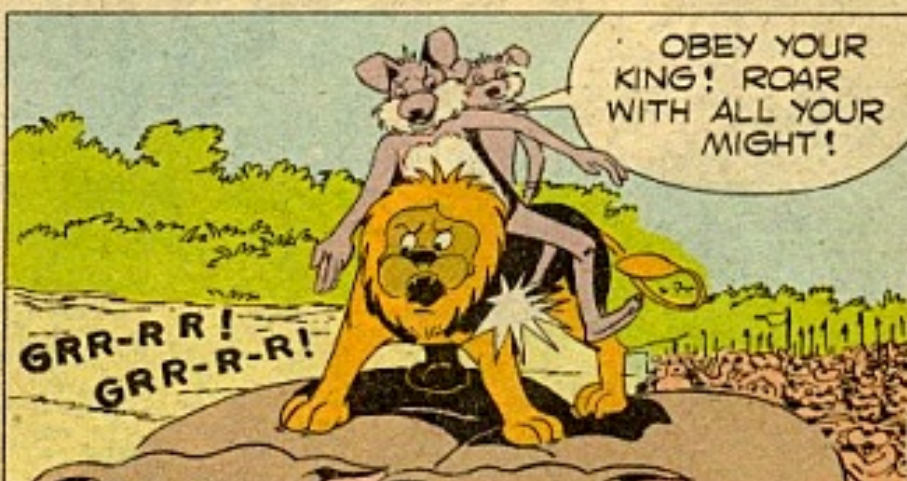
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! THE LIONS WILL ALL OBEY ME. EVEN THIS LION ON WHOSE BACK I SIT WILL ROAR.



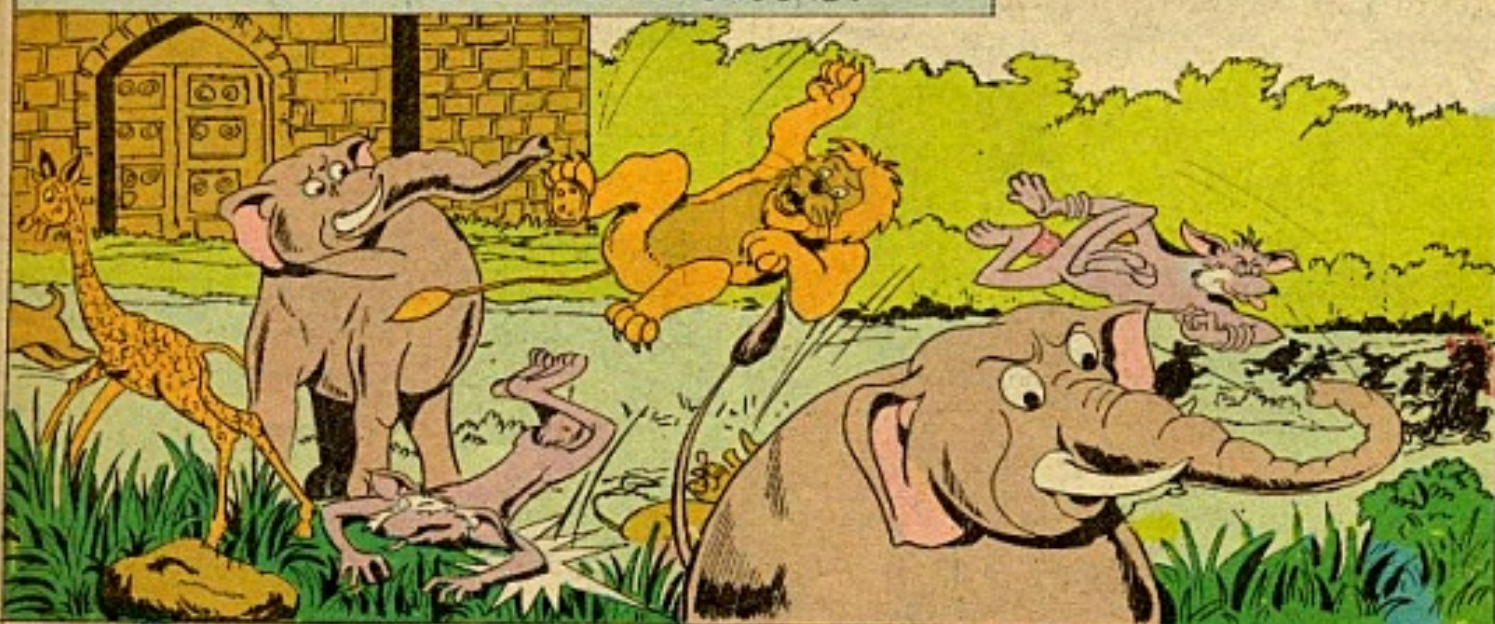
DON'T BRAG. GET HIM TO ROAR—IF YOU CAN.



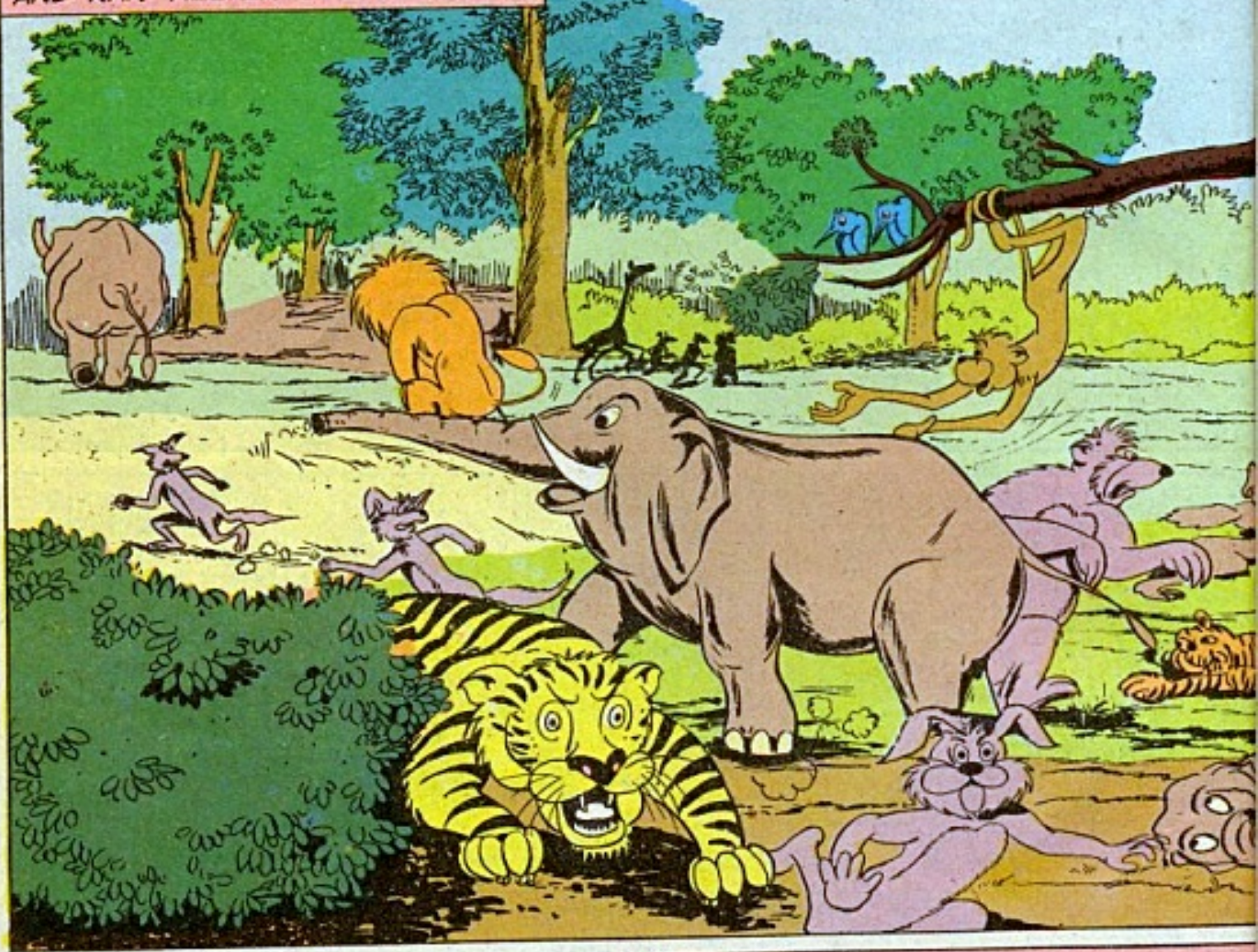
OBEY YOUR KING! ROAR WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!



THE LION ROARED AND ROARED. TERRIFIED, THE ELEPHANTS SHOOK OFF THE LION. THE JACKALS CRASHED TO THE GROUND.



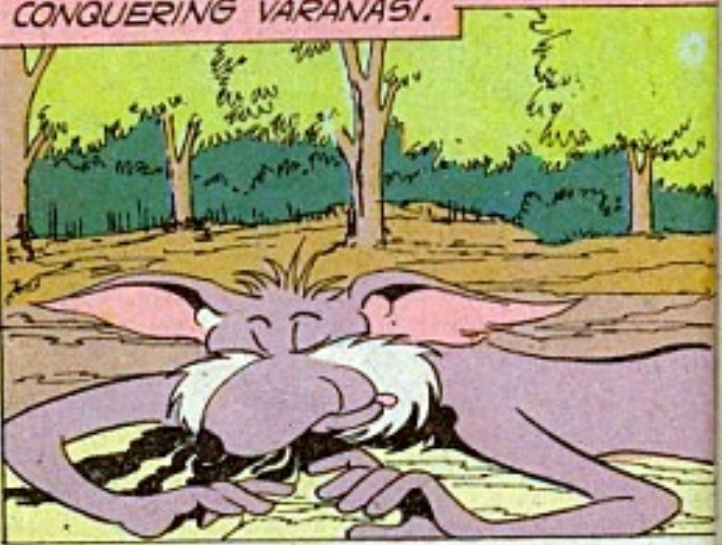
SEEING THE ELEPHANTS RUN AMUCK, ALL THE ANIMALS BROKE INTO A STAMPEDE AND RAN HELTER SKELTER.



IN THE STAMPEDE,
THE JACKALS WERE
TRAMPLED TO DEATH.



THAT WAS THE END OF KING SARVADATA
WHO HAD DARED TO DREAM OF
CONQUERING VARANASI.



THE JACKAL AND THE OTTERS



A JACKAL'S WIFE ONCE WANTED TO EAT SOME FRESH ROHITA FISH. PROMISING TO BRING IT FOR HER, THE JACKAL WENT TO THE RIVER.



JUST THEN HE SAW TWO OTTERS DRAGGING ALONG A HUGE ROHITA FISH.



THE JACKAL DREW NEARER.



YES, BUT HOW SHALL WE DIVIDE IT?

IF I DIVIDE IT, I'LL HAVE TO GIVE HIM THE LARGER SHARE.



YOU DIVIDE IT.



IF I DIVIDE IT, I'LL HAVE TO GIVE HIM THE BEST BITS.

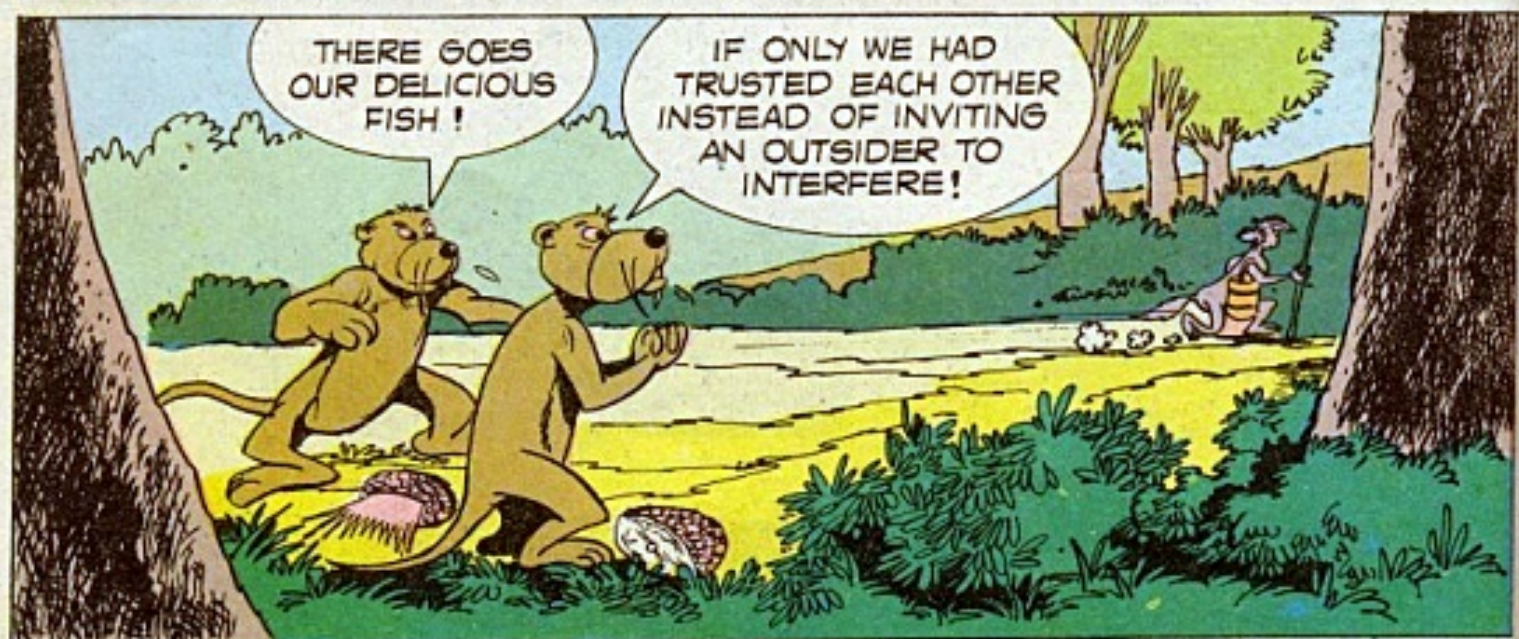


NO, YOU DIVIDE IT.

NO, YOU DIVIDE IT.

HERE'S MY CHANCE! THEY'RE SURE TO ASK ME TO DIVIDE IT FOR THEM.





THE JACKAL AND THE SHE-GOAT



LONG AGO, IN A CAVE ON THE SLOPES OF THE HIMALAYAS, THERE LIVED A HERD OF WILD GOATS. ONE DAY, AS A JACKAL AND HIS MATE WERE PROWLING ABOUT FOR FOOD, THEY SAW THE GOATS GRAZING.



COME! LET US KILL ONE OF THEM.

WAIT! IF WE ARE CLEVER, WE'LL HAVE FOOD ENOUGH FOR MANY MONTHS.

THEY WAITED TILL THE GOATS BEGAN TO WANDER APART AS THEY GRAZED.



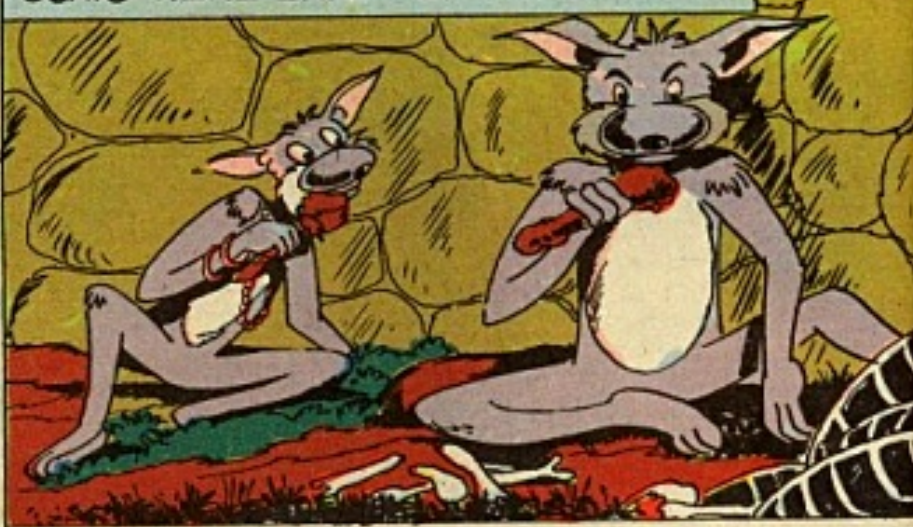
LET'S FOLLOW THAT ONE TILL HE IS FAR AWAY FROM THE OTHERS.

A FEW HOURS LATER —

THERE! I'VE
KILLED HIM. NOW
HELP ME DRAG
HIM TO OUR
CAVE.



MANY MONTHS PASSED AND, ONE BY ONE, THE
GOATS WERE EATEN BY THE JACKALS.



THE ONLY ONE LEFT
WAS A WISE SHE-
GOAT.

I DARE NOT
GO OUT. THE
JACKALS ARE
ABOUT AGAIN!

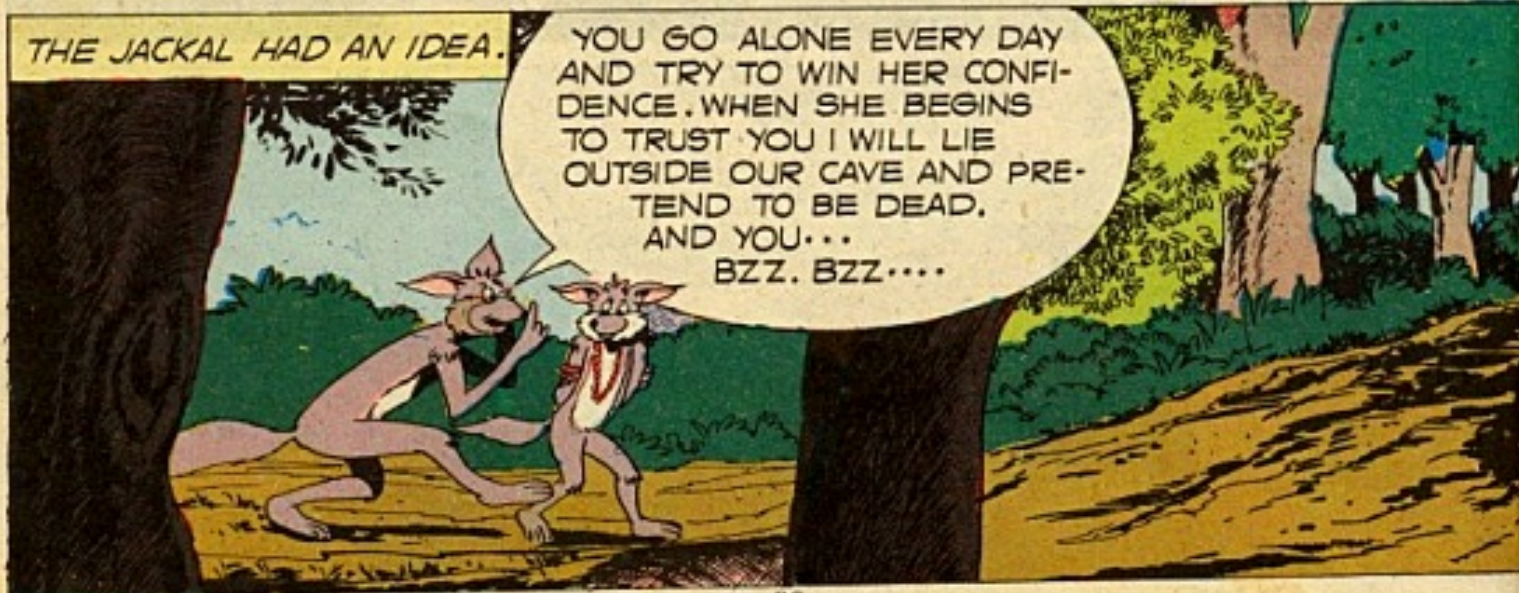


THAT SHE-GOAT
SEEMS TO BE WISE
TO US. SHE DOES
NOT COME OUT
AT ALL.



THE JACKAL HAD AN IDEA.

YOU GO ALONE EVERY DAY
AND TRY TO WIN HER CONFI-
DENCE. WHEN SHE BEGINS
TO TRUST YOU I WILL LIE
OUTSIDE OUR CAVE AND PRE-
TEND TO BE DEAD.
AND YOU...
BZZ. BZZ....



EAGER TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN, THE SHE-JACKAL HASTENED TO THE GOAT'S CAVE.

O WISE GOAT,
DO YOU LIVE
HERE ALL
ALONE?

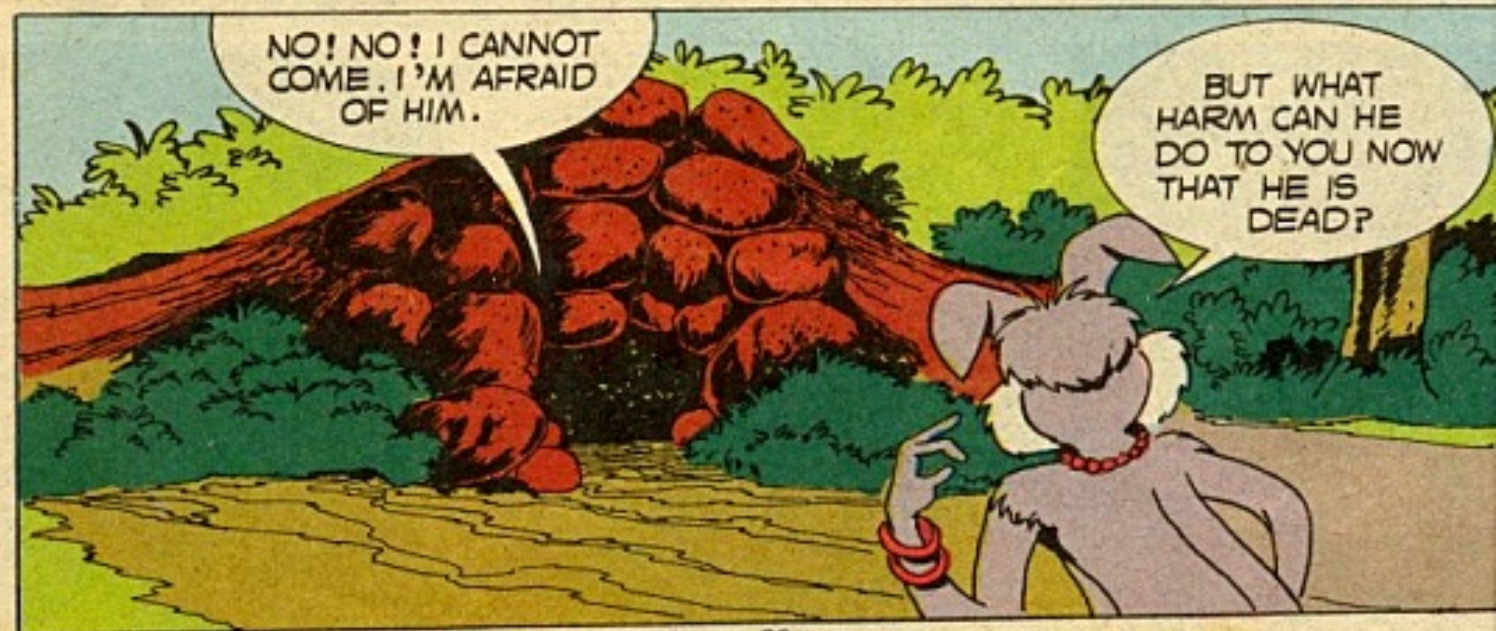
IT'S THE
WIFE OF THE
JACKAL!

PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID.
I'VE COME TO MAKE
FRIENDS WITH YOU.
PLEASE COME
OUT.

NO! I DON'T
TRUST YOU. GO
AWAY. YOU
KILLED ALL MY
RELATIVES.

IT WAS MY HUSBAND, NOT ME.
IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME,
YOU NEEDN'T COME OUT.
BUT, PLEASE, DON'T
REFUSE TO TALK
TO ME.

THERE'S
NO HARM IN SPEAK-
ING TO HER FROM
INSIDE. SHE MAY
BE INNOCENT.



DEAD OR ALIVE, HE'S
CRUEL AND I'M
AFRAID TO COME
OUT.

AND I HAD
THOUGHT YOU WERE
MY FRIEND! HOW
UNFORTUNATE I AM
THAT I MUST BURY
MY HUSBAND ALL
BY MYSELF!

SHE CAN'T BE
LYING. HE MUST
REALLY BE
DEAD.

DON'T WEEP,
MY FRIEND.
I'LL COME
WITH YOU.

AS THEY WERE ABOUT TO SET OUT,
HOWEVER, THE SHE-GOAT SUDDENLY
BECAME DOUBTFUL AGAIN.

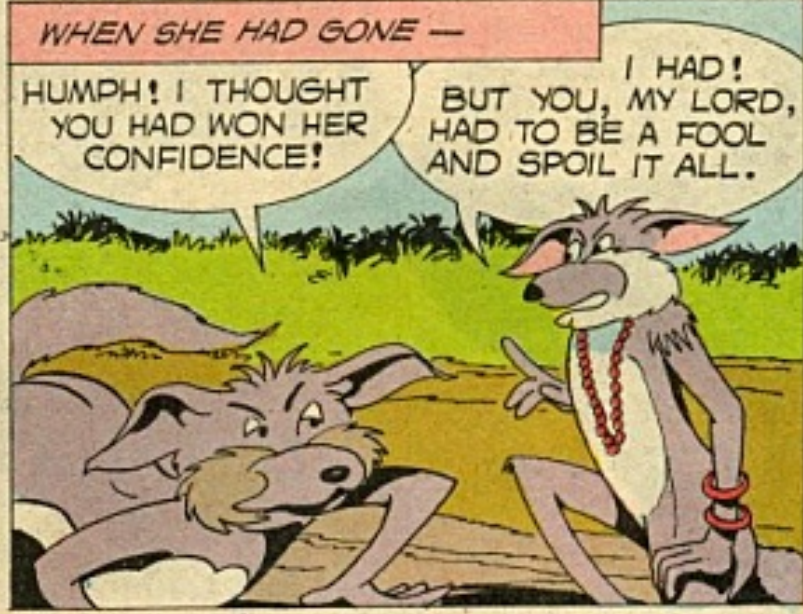
FRIEND, YOU WALK AHEAD
AND SHOW ME THE WAY.
I'LL FOLLOW.

A LITTLE LATER—

AH, FOOTSTEPS!
HERE THEY
COME.

HE FORGOT THAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO PLAY
DEAD, AND OPENED HIS EYES TO LOOK AT THE
PLUMP GOAT.

HE'S
ALIVE!



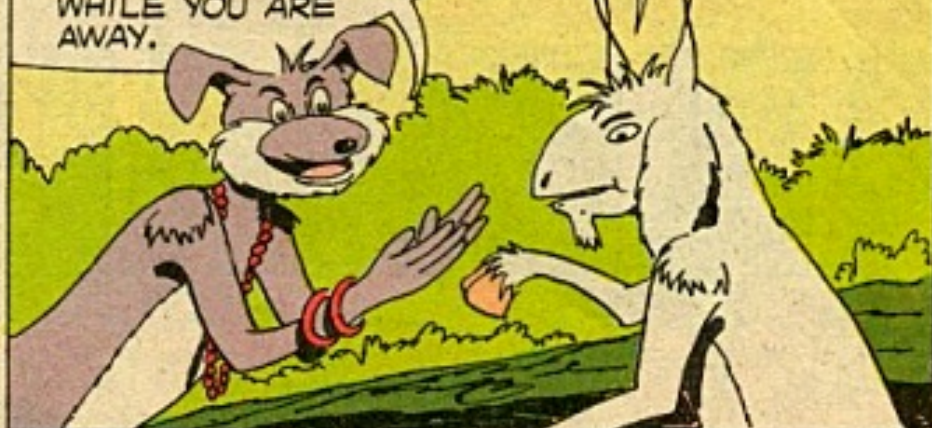
THE RUSE WORKED.

TWO THOUSAND DOGS! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS GOAT.



DEAR FRIEND, I'VE CHANGED MY MIND. YOU'D BETTER NOT COME. YOUR CAVE MIGHT BE BURGLED WHILE YOU ARE AWAY.

BUT I WANT TO COME AND....



NO! PLEASE DON'T BOTHER. SOME OTHER TIME, PERHAPS.



THEN SHE RAN FOR HER LIFE...



...TILL SHE REACHED HER MATE.

QUICK! WE MUST RUN. OR ELSE WE'LL MAKE A MEAL FOR TWO THOUSAND DOGS!

TWO THOUSAND DOGS!



THE JACKAL AND HIS MATE TOOK TO THEIR HEELS. AND THEY WERE NOT SEEN OR HEARD OF EVER AGAIN.

